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MAYOR AND SUPERVISORS.

We know of no plan to compromise with the Mayor on a division of the spoils and certainly have advised no such thing. It would please the Advertiser if all appointments, below the higher grade, could be taken out of politics and referred to a civil service commission. On the understanding that the municipal row is chiefly one of differing interpretation of the law governing city and county appointments, and the Mayor's powers generally, this paper simply urges a friendly appeal to the courts for a decision on the contested points. The rights of the Mayor and the rights of the Supervisors should be clearly defined and what better way is there to obtain such definition than the one proposed? If amendments are needed to clarify the City and County Act it is well to find out what they are and have the incoming Legislature provide them. And the sooner the first steps are taken, the better.

A VICTORY FOR JAPAN'S PRESS.

The report received by cable yesterday morning from Japan that the engagement of Baron Togo to the daughter of Prince Kita Shirakawa had been broken off is a matter of more import than the mere heart affairs of a Baron and Princess. It is a triumph of the free press of Japan. Until now no newspaper in the Island Empire dared speak openly of the private affairs of the imperial family, much less criticize any member thereof. Now the way has been cleared by the Niroku, one of the foremost of Tokio's journals, and, instead of the prompt suppression of the publication, which everyone in Japan expected, the paper has gained its point and a Royal marriage has been stepped. Only those who realize the divinity that has hedged the members of the Japanese royal family can appreciate what this means to the Japanese press.

Prince Kita Shirakawa, the father of the intended bride, ranks in Japan equally with Prince Fushimi. His daughter, a girl nineteen years old, had become formally betrothed to Baron Kodo, a scion of one of Japan's greatest families, the match having received the sanction of the Emperor and the engagement having been announced in the official gazette.

The Niroku immediately began a violent attack upon the character of the Baron, publishing an expose of his life while at Cambridge, England, when he became involved in a liaison with an English woman, and further exposing his immorality in Japan. The paper denounced the marriage as arranged and threatened to bring suit on its own account against the Baron unless the engagement was broken. The boldness of the Niroku astounded all Japan and the arrest of the editor was hourly expected.

The published truth was effective in Tokio as elsewhere, however. The marriage will not take place and the Baron is socially dead from now on.

THE DRIFT OF THINGS.

But as to the general tendency. Is it not towards more direct popular government? The municipal corporations which have moved in the direction of one-man power retain the right to elect the one man by popular vote, and they are highly developed communities, with a specially trustworthy electorate and have been through the experience of self-government under the divided responsibility systems. In all of the systems in every city save Washington, D. C., the government is local and on the basis of universal suffrage. Most cities which have gone under "government by commission" elect the commissioners, excepting Washington, which suffers and "howls" under a commission government forced upon it by the nation.—Star.

The voice of the politician is not the voice of the people. It is the politician who "howls" against the well-nigh perfect government of Washington, not the property-owner and taxpayer. And the more satisfactory a government is to those who pay its bills, the more likely are the politicians to raise the wolf's long cry. Washington is all right; the trouble is that the people who batten on politics there can't get at its treasury.

The Star is in error in saying that, in all the systems in every city save Washington, D. C., the government is local and on the basis of universal suffrage. The cities governed by commission get their commissioners from the Governor of the State; and unless the Star indulges in the quibble that universal suffrage is reached through him, its point is lost. In the government of the greatest American city, New York, control of its public utilities has lately been taken from the elected representatives of "the people" and vested in a commission appointed by the Governor—which is a step towards centralization, the significance of which cannot be ignored.

The Star cites the Philippine legislature as an American step away from centralization. But this step is more apparent than real. The Philippine legislature is only a toy to play with. The commission still decides what is best for the island dependency and will continue to do so, as President-elect Taft thinks, for at least thirty years to come. Nobody but the Star pretends that the Philippines have home rule and the Star knows better. In Hawaii's case a legislature was framed with more power than the Filipino body has; but Congress took care to fix things so that, if our legislature should refuse appropriations or the confirmation of appointments, the non-elected Governor could go ahead, after its adjournment, under the former appropriation bill and re-appoint the officials whom the legislature opposed. The fact is, the Territory is governed in the final analysis, by Washington's appointee, with the powers of the legislature to interfere in vital matters sternly curbed; and with a reserve power in Congress to abolish the legislative system altogether. Does the Star really call that a step away from centralization?

The Star thinks that it detects sympathy in this paper with Andrew Carnegie's plan of co-operation between wage-earners and the management of great industrial properties, and implies that this attitude is not consistent with our views on reasonably concentrated power in government. But what are the facts? Andrew Carnegie lets his qualified employees share profits with him and vote at shareholders' meetings; but he is careful to hold the majority of the stock himself, and he has the final say. This paper discovers nothing in that situation to find fault with from the standpoint of efficiency in the management of great properties. It observes that Mr. Carnegie does not give his hold-carriers a chance to vote down his skilled mechanics and himself. He admits no "universal suffrage" in the management of his iron mills. He does not count noses. If he did, he would soon run out of money for libraries. "Nothing," he says, "can stand against the direct management of owners." He is right. But he does not include his dump cart drivers as owners and carrying the analogy into politics, no government which lets its owners, meaning its taxpayers, be ruled by a mere proletariat, can hope to be either efficient or respectable.

The hold that Senator Perkins has on the Republicans of California is phenomenal. He has no showy attributes, nor does he go out of his way to make friends. But neither the spell-binding of George Knight, the political cunning of M. H. De Young, the personal prestige of Victor H. Metcalf, the reputation of U. S. Grant, Jr., the money of John D. Spreckels, the finesse of Dr. Pardee, nor the pose of S. M. Shortridge can prevail against Senator Perkins in a Republican legislative caucus. He is the one man, in the party's opinion, who ought to be kept in the Senate. Hawaii has no cause to be displeased over this fact, as Senator Perkins has shown himself to be a friend of Island interests.

The good work of the Board of Health has rarely been shown to better advantage than at Hilo where a colony of dead rats, infected by the bacilli of plague, was uncovered before an epidemic had started among the people. After this, few can doubt the value of the anti-rat campaign nor the excellence of the standards of efficiency which the Board imposes upon its agents. Hilo, even if not yet out of danger, has reason to congratulate itself that one prolific source of contagion has been removed.

If the estimate of one billion, two hundred millions damage by the earthquake in Sicily and Southern Italy is anywhere near true, it is the most striking descriptive fact of the great calamity so far cabled.

KINNEY ON FERN.

Mr. Kinney's plea for Mayor Fern is really one for the men behind Mayor Fern. They and not he drew up the program of which Mr. Kinney speaks in terms of merited praise, while the Mayor himself stood by uncomprehending. It was plain enough at the meeting of Monday afternoon that Mr. Fern did not understand his own message, could not take a cue from his managers, and was bewildered by the simplest parliamentary rules. Are we wrong in condemning a system which makes it impossible for the able men behind this executive figurehead to be elected to the high places in the municipality and which makes Fern and others like him the chief beneficiaries of the popular voting? Shall we hurrah over a system which leaves Mr. Kinney unavailable for the office of Mayor and makes that office the prize of men who never contributed an idea or very much else worth having to the general scheme of things?

Mr. Kinney assumes that, in this discussion, the Advertiser has picked out the natives for special censure. Certainly there was no intention of so doing. There are white voters in the community who are more dangerous to good government than any natives; and there are Hawaiians who give value received in or out of office. One of these last the Advertiser supported for Mayor. But the fact remains that we have a large unqualified vote derived from various races; and that this vote exercises its power to keep first-class men out of office, to make government costly and officials incompetent. That such officials can often be held in check and directed wisely is no apology for the system which produces them; it is simply our good luck. Taking a lesson from the utter failure of local self-government in some other parts of the United States, where similar conditions prevail, we should have known better than to enlarge its scope here before the people were ready for it.

SUPERVISORS AND ECONOMY.

The word economy was under tabu last night in the Board of Supervisors, the effort being to find a way to expend, in the next six months, every cent of the income, all the money bequeathed by the last Board of Supervisors, and as much more as can be got. The appropriation bill was permitted to exceed the estimates and the idea of referring any of the expenditures to a committee to see if they could be safely cut down, though suggested through the Mayor, was not entertained. Though retrenchment might easily be made, especially in some of the county offices, the spirit to undertake it was absent.

If the Supervisors who know how, expect reelection, they would do well to consider the unwisdom of a spendthrift policy. The voting body in this county is going to change very fast after the Fifth district gets its navy yard operatives and the Fourth and Fifth receive the further non-official population which the constructive boom here and the promotion work is sure to bring. There will be somebody else to consider besides the voting proletariat that looks upon government merely as a suckling calf looks upon a milch cow; and before long many unpleasant questions will be asked about the overloaded personnel of office and the perfectly unrestrained outlay for incompetent road service for the sake of votes.

Granting extraordinary conditions in the present Board, it remains true that a expenditure of a quarter of a million dollars deserved far more consideration last night than it got. If there is yet a chance to give retrenchment a hearing, we urge the Board, for its own sake as well as for the sake of the taxpayers, to put itself into a more hospitable frame of mind.

TIME TO ADJUDICATE.

Having started the amusement season with a few days of attractive vaudeville, it is time for the Mayor and Supervisors to cease being comical and try to get themselves in shape to do the business for which they were elected.

Supervisor Logan makes the suggestion in his paper, the Star, that the matters in dispute be taken, in a friendly spirit, to the courts. He says that legal minds honestly differ over the question at issue, but that there is no reason why it should not be quickly settled. This is true and sensible. We think the Supreme Court would be willing to define the powers of the Mayor and Supervisors without material delay, whereupon the public business would proceed in order.

The Advertiser seconds the motion of the Star. Let an armistice be declared and let the only settlement be sought that gives pledge of permanency. Any more horseplay will turn the amusement of the public into disgust.

The forcing up of the bottom of the Strait of Messina 1400 feet, looks like nature's attempt to restore to the Italian peninsula the land taken from it before the dawn of history. Geology shows that Sicily was once a part of the mainland and was separated from it by the subsidence of the strip of territory which now appears to be rising to its ancient topographical place. It is quite possible, as a result of the seismic activity now going on, that the union of the severed parts may be completed, Sicily, as an island, thus disappearing from the map.

It would be a pity to have the monitor Cheyenne kept away from here because she is a warm ship to live in. While the land defenses are incomplete, a floating battery like the Cheyenne—one nearly as powerful in her way as the Waikiki battery will be—would promote respect for the flag and lend dignity to our one tug naval station. If naval men can stand the Monterey and Monadnock in Manila bay, they ought to be able to endure the Cheyenne in Honolulu harbor.

Talk of putting out Mayor Fern because he, as an ex-member of the old Board of Supervisors accepted a pair of cuff-buttons from the former county employees, is as ridiculous as the threat made before election of prosecuting, for a violation of the election law, those who had offered to support the Republican ticket in case it was cleaned up. There is little doubt that the statute book where all this law comes from has a special cuffskin binding.

George W. Smith, who is about to retire from the presidency of the Merchants' Association, which he has filled for six years, is a business man who sets a creditable example of public service. He has given valuable time to the community both in and out of office and has either initiated or helped to carry out measures of much public importance. His retirement from the presidency of the Merchants' Association is to be regretted, although he will have a public-spirited successor in Mr. Waldron.

The order sending the United States fleet to Naples instead of Messina shows that the Navy Department has its wits about it. The sea around Sicily is no place just now in which to risk \$80,000,000 worth of ships. If our sailors are needed to help out, they can be sent from Naples to Calabria by rail.

The Supreme Court of the United States has found against the \$29,000,000 fine and that ends it. In the general plan of subsidence there seems to be ample room for Keneasaw Mountain Lands.

The President remarked the other day about War Scare Hobson that if he had a little sense he would be almost half-witted.

If there is anything the Star won't defend or apologize for, it must be something that hasn't a cent of public printing in it.

Mr. Achi would be pleased to advise the new Mayor and begins by suggesting the removal of Secretary Rhodes. We have nothing against Mr. Rhodes, but if he has the slightest desire to increase the gaiety of the situation, he will step aside and give Mr. Achi a chance. With Fern acting on the advice of Achi, the municipal vaudeville features which Mr. Rhodes has helped to modify would proceed at full blast.

CABLE REPORTS

(Continued from Page One.)

REGGIO, January 5.—More earthquake shocks were felt here today, occurring at intervals of twenty minutes.

MESSINA, January 5.—Shocks of earthquake still continue. Fourteen thousand dead have been buried.

PORT SAID, January 5.—The dispatch boat Yankton left this city today for Messina. The first squadron of the fleet is here and the second squadron is now passing through the Suez canal.

WASHINGTON, January 5.—President Roosevelt today signed the bill appropriating \$800,000 for the immediate relief of the sufferers from the Italian and Sicilian earthquakes.

SACRAMENTO, January 5.—Governor Gillett's message to the Legislature advises legislation against rebates and better control of the railroads and banks of the State.

CALCUTTA, January 5.—Religious riots, in which Mohammedans and

Hindus are taking part, are causing great trouble in this city. The situation has reached such a crisis that the British troops have been compelled to fire AMOY, January 5.—A revolutionary outbreak has occurred near Mukden on the Hindus in order to preserve order.

MESSINA, January 6.—Typhoid fever has broken out here and the medical authorities are considering the removal of all living persons from the destroyed cities.

ROME, January 6.—The report that typhoid fever has broken out in Messina causes the gravest anxiety.

The King received United States Ambassador Griscom yesterday. The latter presented the Italian government in the name of the American people, the steamer Bayern laden with provisions and medicine for the earthquake sufferers.

NEW YORK, January 6.—Twenty-five tons of clothing and fifteen tons of provisions were forwarded yesterday by the steamer Hamburg for the victims of the Italian earthquake.

PORT SAID, January 6.—The first squadron has sailed for Naples.

NAPLES, January 6.—Dogs are gnawing at the corpses at Messina and are attacking the survivors. The Cathedral is a total wreck.

ROME, January 6.—The government has decided to remove temporarily all the survivors in the districts destroyed by the earthquake.

SACRAMENTO, January 6.—The Legislature will meet in joint session today to elect a Senator.

The Suffragettes, one thousand strong, plan to besiege the Legislature on behalf of a bill granting the ballot to women.

WASHINGTON, January 6.—A treaty between Colombia, Panama and the United States, settling all controversies between them, has been signed and diplomatic and commercial relations will be resumed. Panama agrees to pay Colombia \$2,500,000 in ten annual instalments, the money to be furnished by the United States.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 6.—Mrs. Claus Spreckels has been granted an allowance of \$4000 per month pending the probate of her late husband's will.

WASHINGTON, January 6.—The suit brought by the government to dissolve the Harriman railroad merger went to trial yesterday.

WASHINGTON, January 6.—President Roosevelt in his message to Congress points out the necessity of giving the Interstate Commerce Commission the power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the giving of testimony.

PORT SAID, January 6.—The battleship Georgia went ashore in the Suez canal today, but was refloated. She suffered no damage.

ODESSA, January 6.—The Russian steamer Satslow was sunk in collision with the Greek steamer Posedony. Thirty-four lives were lost.

WASHINGTON, January 6.—Collector of the Port of San Francisco Stratton has been renominated by the President.

ROME, January 7.—Lloyd Griscom, the American Ambassador, goes to Messina today to meet the second squadron of the fleet.

TOKIO, January 7.—Japanese bankers have contributed \$405,000 gold to the earthquake sufferers.

TOKIO, January 7.—Count Toda, whose engagement to a Royal Princess was cancelled on the discovery that he had married while a student at Cambridge, has made an unsuccessful attempt at suicide by poison.

SEOUL, January 7.—The Emperor and Prince Ito have started on a tour of Korea.

SACRAMENTO, January 7.—Three bills have been introduced in the Legislature which are aimed at the Japanese.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 7.—The U. S. S. Buffalo has sailed for Honolulu.

WOULD HAVE TRANSPORTS
COME TWO AT A TIME

Army and Navy Journal: In his annual report the Quartermaster General of the Army says: "The owned transport vessels now operated by the department are sufficient for the needs of the service under existing conditions, but some of them are approaching the age when it will no longer be economical to keep them in that degree of seaworthiness which is an imperative requisite to safeguarding the lives of their multitude of passengers. The loss at sea of a troop-laden transport would be a calamity too terrible to contemplate with equanimity." In view of this statement the suggestion made by one of our correspondents, an officer of large experience, is of immediate and pressing importance. Our correspondent says: "Transports going to Manila from San Francisco should go in pairs, or better have them go over the path followed by the liners. This would remove the present danger to some extent of loss of all hands, in case of accident, such as running on uncharted reefs, uncontrollable leak from a strain, in a typhoon, swamping, disabling of machinery, etc., etc. There would be some show for human beings in case one of these unfortunate things should occur; and our transports are getting a little worn and old now. If anything happens to one transport, and she has a consort, relief could be rendered promptly and the boats and life rafts of both transports could be put to use in transferring human souls, as a consort is supposed to be nearby. If the transports go on the path of the liners there is a good chance of getting

help, within a reasonable time and before all are lost. History shows how many thousands of lives are saved by ships sailing over frequented routes. On account of the route now used (Honolulu to Manila), the majority of the passengers are in fear and trembling lest some dire disaster shall overcome them, and they know that then all hope is lost; they must go down with the ships or perish in the few small boats or rafts, for there will be no helping hand there. No expense should be spared to adopt this system. Everybody who has to go to Manila dreads the trip on account of the present dangers, and it is wracking on the nerves of many good worthy people. After all these years it seems as though the general staff, at least, should wake up to the necessity. The few boats and life rafts would do but little good with 2000 souls aboard. Better have a consort! The lifeboats in mid-ocean would just about save the crew until they starved to death." Since the War of Independence the following vessels of the Navy have disappeared at sea with all on board: the Saratoga, in 1786; the Pickering and the Insurgent, in 1800; the Hamilton, in 1813; the Wasp, in 1814; the Epervier, in 1815; the Lynx, in 1820; the Wild Cat, in 1824; the Hornet, in 1829; the Sylph, in 1831; the Sea Gull, 2nd, in 1839, and the Levant, 2nd, in 1860. The Albany foundered at sea in 1854, the Bainbridge in 1842, the Grampus in 1821, the Commodore McDonough in 1865. These are some notable examples from our own naval history of the perils that attend those who go down to the sea in ships.

LOCAL AUTHORS AT
KILOHANA ART LEAGUE

The Authors' Evening at the Kilo-hana Art League drew out a goodly company, mainly ladies. U. S. Judge Dole presided, and, after delivering a short address on poetry, with pleasant personal reference to Charles Warren Stoddard, Thomas Rain Walker and other writers of Island verse, made way for Mrs. L. L. McCandless, who read poems of the Judge's own, "Hawaii" and "The Half White Girl." "Lahaina," by Charles Warren Stoddard, and "Waianae" were also read. The "Coco Palm," one of the best of the scenic poems written by Miss Anna Paris, also had the benefit of Mrs. McCandless' fine interpretation. At this juncture in the program, Mrs. Allen White was heard in a solo to her own accompaniment. It was a charming musical interlude, after which the reading of the work of local authors was resumed. "A Place of Mourning," by Ethelinda Schaefer Castle—a prose poem of undoubted merit—was presented by Mrs. McCandless. Walter G. Smith read his short story, "Fletcher's Christmas," and the entertainment closed with a masterly rendering of Mrs. Agnes Cray Weaver's beautiful "Moonlight Sonata" and a translation of ancient Latin verse by Prof. W. D. Alexander. After the literary entertainment there were refreshments.

THE CHAMPION RETRIEVER.

Flapper, the property of Mr. Maurice Portal, a Northumberland shooting man, beat all the flatcoated retrievers

at the Kennel Club trials last season. He was the only retriever which, when set the task of hunting up a strong runner which had dropped on the opposite side of the River Bure, not only swam that river as if he liked the task, but getting his nose on the ground at the fall hunted every inch of the trail of the runner and brought it to hand back over the river. Other retrievers had been tried on the same bird, but some would not even swim the Bure, and that performance stood out as the one really brilliant item of the meetings, and Flapper could not be kept out of the stake.

Did he not run at the Kirkcubright meeting of the Scottish Field Trials Association, which began the campaign on the fine Knock Brex shooting in gray Galloway, for he had gone lame, and the winner was Colonel Coats' Pitchfork Monarch, a very reliable dog for a Labrador out of a flatcoated bitch; but the next week, when the call was to Six-Mile Bottom on the occasion of the meeting of the International Gundog League, Flapper turned up, and, although showing signs of staleness and increasing age, he ran so well that once more he could not be kept out of the premier position.

THE USUAL THINGS.

"I say, Elsa, what are you going to serve for dessert?"

"Oh, the usual things—sakes, candy, and opera singers; then ice, liqueurs, a professional soloist; afterward fruit, coffee and poets."—Fliegende Blaetter.